

Delta Protection Commission, and helped protect the air quality throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, as an appointee to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Karen has done incredible work to support our county's transportation infrastructure, playing a key role as a member of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. She has also helped enhance economic activity and development throughout the county, working to improve regional resiliency plans and housing needs as an executive committee member of the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Please join me and Congressman SWALWELL in congratulating Karen on her well-earned retirement after more than four decades of service to Contra Costa County.

HONORING VONCAROL KINCHENS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians to recognize VonCarol Kinchens for her contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on July 28, 1896, the date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, VonCarol Kinchens' commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring VonCarol Kinchens for her contributions to the community and her role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

AWARDING MAJOR MICHAEL HOGGE A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I am honored and privileged to award Major Michael Hogge with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service and sacrifice through the United States Air Force exemplify his national pride and embodiment as a role-model citizen to serve the country he loves. Major Hogge is truly an ideal candidate to receive the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Major Hogge served as a Captain Chief of Logistics for the Air Force where he contributed his expertise and knowledge as a maintenance manager for over ten years. With a brilliant mind in logistics, he contributed his skill set in fixed, tactical, and airborne systems.

Major Hogge has undergone extreme training in electronics, including the formal Air Force electronics systems training, accompanied by many years of experience as an

electrician technician. Throughout his military deployment, Major Hogge was known as an effective manager which he applied to everyday life.

Major Hogge's life in service did not end with his retirement from the military. He continues to support various veteran community events in Hunt County and donates his time to local military fundraisers such as 1000 Miles Till Home.

As an avid leader in his community, Major Hogge is a true patriot to those around him. Whether it's using his repair skills through his church or building homes for the impoverished in Mexico, Major Hogge is defined by humbly dedicating his life to service.

I am beyond honored to have Major Hogge in Texas' 4th Congressional district and am privileged to award such a distinguished citizen for his sacrifices.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL KOSZTARAB

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michael Kosztarab of Blacksburg, Virginia, who passed away on September 6, 2022. Dr. Kosztarab was a longtime entomology professor at Virginia Tech who led an exciting and heroic life in his journey from his native eastern Europe to Southwest Virginia.

Dr. Kosztarab was born in 1927 in Bucharest, Romania, to Michael Kosztarab and Berta Albert of Transylvania Hungarian descent. He spent much of his early childhood under the care of his widowed maternal grandmother in eastern Transylvania before returning to his parents in Bucharest at the age of six. They later moved to Budapest, Hungary. As a teenager during World War II, he defied the Nazis by aiding Jews in the city's ghetto, and while staying in a building with 36 Jews was arrested when the Nazis raided it. He was arrested and held in custody until Soviet forces arrived in Budapest.

After the war, Dr. Kosztarab worked for a floriculturist and then the Ministry of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Protection eradicating pests. He enrolled in university and, based on his work in the ministry, decided to pursue entomology. He became an assistant professor, but Communist rule meant his position was accompanied by indoctrination and attempts to turn him into an informant.

When the Hungarian Revolution broke out in 1956 and was brutally put down by the Soviets, Dr. Kosztarab and his wife Matilda knew they had to flee the country, but also knew they could not yet take their infant daughter Eva with them. The couple evaded border guards and crossed an icy river into Austria. Dr. Kosztarab then arranged for Eva to join them. He traveled on a train that briefly crossed into Hungary for nine days. On the ninth day, as guards were looking the other way, Eva was tossed in a bundle to Dr. Kosztarab through a window. The family made its way to the United States the following year.

After earning a PhD at the Ohio State University, Dr. Kosztarab became a professor of entomology at Virginia Tech in 1962. His career was characterized by prolific research,

writing, and teaching. He discovered new insect species, authored or co-authored six books and 170 research publications, and received the W.E. Wine Award for Excellence of Teaching in 1968. Dr. Kosztarab served as a Founding Director of the Virginia Tech Museum of Natural History and as Founding President of the Virginia Natural History Society. The Commonwealth of Virginia named the Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly as the State Insect thanks to a campaign he led with the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs.

Among the accolades Dr. Kosztarab earned over the course of his career are the Association of Systematics Collections' Annual Recognition Award in 1994, the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science from the Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation in 1998, the L.O. Howard Distinguished Achievement Award of the Eastern Branch, Entomological Society of America in 2001, and fellowship in the Royal Entomological Society of London in 1989. He retired from Virginia Tech in 1992.

Dr. Kosztarab's wife Matilda passed away in 2013. He is survived by his daughter Eva Kosztarab, son-in-law Kenneth Kastner, grandsons Gregory and Matthew Kastner, granddaughter-in-law Katharine Hagen, and great granddaughters Lia and Abigail Kastner. I offer them my condolences on their loss. Dr. Kosztarab stood up to the two great totalitarian systems of the 20th century, Nazism and Communism, and in the United States led a distinguished career. It was a life that showed the promise of America and the character of Dr. Kosztarab.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PHIL MCCLURE

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2022

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Phil McClure, of Warren, Texas, who passed away on Monday, October 31, 2022, at the age of 70.

Phil was born in Beaumont, Texas, on December 27, 1951, to Thomas Lindburg and Tressie Mae Drodgy McClure. He graduated from Kirby High School in Woodville, Texas, and was a member of the 1969 District Champion football team. As a young man, Phil was very active in Future Farmers of America and attained Eagle Scout rank, the highest achievement the Boy Scouts of America offer.

Phil owned and operated McClure Furniture Store in Woodville for many years, working as a licensed real estate broker on the side. My wife, Roxanne, and I purchased our first home from him when we moved to Woodville after I separated from the United States Air Force.

He loved being involved in his community and devoted countless hours serving in the Woodville Volunteer Fire Department, the Woodville Lion's Club, and the First Baptist Church of Warren. Phil graciously hosted my congressional staff at his beautiful Cypress Creek Ranch, sharing his passion for wildlife management, the great outdoors, and hunting with each of them.

Madam Speaker, it is a special privilege to recognize my friend, Phil McClure. My most sincere prayers remain with his friends and loved ones during this difficult time.